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B O R O U G H   O F   T O T N E S

ANNUAL   REPORT  
OF   THE   HEALTH   OF   THE   DISTRICT  
FOR   THE   YEAR   1971

PRESENTED BY  
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



B O R O U G H   O F   T O T N E S

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1971

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Preface	1
Public Health Committee and Staff	2
Section 'A'                      Statistics	3 - 5
Section 'B'                      Health Services for the Area	6
Section 'C'                      Infectious Diseases	7
Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector	8 - 9
Section 'D'                      Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	10 - 13
Section 'E'                      Inspection and Supervision of Food	14 - 15
Section 'F'                      Housing	16
Appendix 'A'                      Factories Act - Administration	17 - 18



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Municipal Borough of Totnes

Annual Report on the Health of the District during 1971

P r e f a c e

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Members of the Borough Council:-

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the Health of the District drawn up in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/72 dated January, 1972. Included in the Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

Vital Statistics

The Registrar General's estimate of 5,720 for the population is based upon the preliminary report of the 1971 census.

There were 74 births giving a Standardised Birth Rate of 15.4 per thousand population which is a little below the National Average of 16.0. Deaths showed a drop to 99 giving a Standardised Rate of 9.3 which is below the National Average of 11.6 per thousand population. There were no infant deaths.

Infectious Diseases

Very few infectious diseases were reported.

Environmental Health

I draw attention to the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector which appears further on in the Report.

I wish to thank members of the Council and staff for their support during the year.

John Wildman  
Medical Officer of Health

July, 1972.



## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman was Alderman W.C. Bennett and the Vice-Chairman was Councillor Mrs. L. Jones. Also on the Committee were the Mayor and six other members of the Council.

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John Wildman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.), M.F.C.M.,

### DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mary E. Budding, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.,

### CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

P. R. Bramley, M.A.P.H.I.

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. M. Maycock, M.A.P.H.I.

### MEAT INSPECTORS

Mr. J. Greenwood

Mr. J. R. Harris (appointed 19th April, 1971)

### CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. S. Bridges

### LOCAL OFFICE

Municipal Offices,  
Fore Street,  
TOTNES. TQ9 5QJ

Telephone Totnes 3532

### M.O.H. CENTRAL OFFICE

Area No. 5, South West Devon,  
Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
8, Plymbridge Road,  
Plympton,  
PLYMOUTH. PL7 4LG.

Telephone Plymouth 36644

### M.O.H. CLERK

Miss G. Prowse

Telephone Plymouth 36644





SECTION 'A'

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1971

Table 1

Figures for 1970 are shown in brackets

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Totnes Municipal Borough

5,720		(5,700)
Natural increase or decrease	- 25	( -37)
Migration in or out	+ 45	( +97)
Total increase or decrease	+ 20	( +60)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Totnes Municipal Borough in Acres 1,421

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books on 1.4.71

2,172		(2,162)
Number of houses per acre	1.529	(1.521)
Number of persons per acre	4.025	(4.011)
Number of persons per house	2.633	(2.636)
Number of dwellings owned by the Council	605	
<u>Rateable Value of District</u>	£234,183	(£232,153) old currency
Sum represented by a new penny rate	£2,277	(£931) old currency



SECTION 'A'

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1971

Table 2

Figures for 1970 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS

<u>Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population</u>	15.4	(16.9)	
Area Comparability Factor for births	1.19	(1.19)	
<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	37	37	74
Legitimate	35	33	68
Illegitimate	2	4	6
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	0	3	3

DEATHS

<u>Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population</u>	9.3	(11.2)	
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.54	(0.54)	
<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Ages      Total	42	57	99
<u>Death of Infants under 1 year</u>	0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>	0.00	(12.0)	

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

<u>Birth Rate</u>	16.0	(16.0)	<u>Death Rate</u>	11.6	(11.7)
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate</u>					
(Infants under 1 year of age)				18.0	(18.0)



# CAUSES OF DEATH 1971

<u>Cause of death</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	..	..	0	1	1
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	1	1	2
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	..	..	1	3	4
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	..	..	2	1	3
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	..	..	0	3	3
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	..	..	-	1	1
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	..	..	2	-	2
B19(10)	Leukaemia .. ..	..	..	0	1	1
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	..	..	4	2	6
B20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	..	..	1	0	1
B21	Diabetes Mellitus ..	..	..	1	1	2
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous system	..	..	1	0	1
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	..	..	9	5	14
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease	..	..	4	8	12
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease ..	..	..	7	3	10
B46(6)	Other diseases of Circulatory system	..	..	2	2	4
B32	Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	4	4	8
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema ..	..	..	1	1	2
B46(7)	Other diseases of Respiratory system	..	..	0	1	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ..	..	..	0	1	1
B46(8)	Other diseases of Digestive system ..	..	..	0	2	2
B46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-skeletal system	..	..	0	1	1
B45	Symptoms and ill defined conditions	..	..	2	11	13
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents ..	..	..	0	1	1
BE48	All other accidents ..	..	..	0	2	2
BE50	All other external causes	..	..	0	1	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES				42	57	99





## SECTION 'B'

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

#### 1. Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town, The Totnes and District Hospital is a general practitioner hospital and has 24 beds. Broomborough Hospital has 135 beds for chronic cases. It has a maternity wing with 13 beds and cots; this unit serves a wide area outside the town.

#### 2. Laboratory Facilities

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory services at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter, and also by the South West Devon Water Board.

#### 3. Mass Miniature Radiography

The Unit visited Totnes once a fortnight throughout the year.

#### 4. County Health Services

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures.

Two District nurse/midwives work in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A Child Welfare clinic is held at regular intervals at The Borough Park Clinic.

A chiropody clinic is held for the handicapped, the aged and expectant mothers at the Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes. Telephone: Totnes 3665.

#### 5. Social Services

The Area Director of Social Services at The Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes, Telephone Totnes 3665, is responsible for providing a Social Work Service under the Children's Act, the Mental Health Act 1959, and the National Assistance Act, to the elderly, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped and homeless persons and families. The Social Services Department also administers the Home Help Service, the Social Work Service to schools, the Occupational Therapy Services and residential homes and centres.





# SECTION 'C'

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1971

Table I

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>in</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Over</u>	
		<u>Under</u>					
		1	1 -	5 -	15 -		25 -
Measles	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Infective Jaundice	2	0	0	1	1	0	0

Table II

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Incidence by Quarters</u>			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	1	0	0	1	0
Meningitis	1	0	0	1	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	0	0	1
Infective Jaundice	2	0	2	0	0

## INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

International certificates of vaccination were authenticated by the Public Health Department during the year of 1971 as follows:-

Smallpox 119 Cholera 114

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under these Acts for the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention. No burials took place under Section 50 of the 1948 Act.



## Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

The year under review shows little change in the established work pattern within the Department.

The refuse collection service continued, but with the increasing bulk of refuse it is becoming difficult to maintain an adequate service with the present resources of staff and plant. The system of kerbside collection, although generally condemned, continues to operate. Some relief from this imposition is being achieved by the use of disposable bin liners.

The refuse tip continues as a scar on the landscape and a source of nuisance in the district. The difficulty is one of properly controlling use and disposal. This can be done only by much closer supervision during working hours. Improvement in the position has been achieved in the year, but only at the expense of the collection service. The time given to this work simply has not been enough to bring about the necessary control.

It is pleasing to report that the large majority of offices, shops and railway premises have received an inspection during the year. The nature and severity of contraventions found in these premises do not give rise to any particular concern. Standards are generally good. No accidents in these premises were reported during 1971.

The majority of food premises likewise received at least one general inspection during the year.

For the most part these are normal well run businesses, but whilst no squalid conditions were found, in a very few instances a marked change in attitude of responsibility to the consumer is demanded. Patience and persuasion being exhausted, further advance is unlikely to occur without the help of statutory enforcement.

The increased throughput at the local bacon factory brought about the necessity for the Council to appoint a further meat inspector. The number of animals slaughtered shows an increase of over 20,000 on the previous year. The percentage of meat rejected continues at about the same level as in previous years.

Only 14 applications for improvement grant approved during 1971 do not reflect the amount of work carried out in this sphere of activity. Investigating housing conditions, repairing and improving property, and securing the rehousing of occupants have formed a large part of the Department's work. Far more effort has been expended and far greater benefits achieved in the year than are shown in the statistics of this report.

The real problem throughout this year, as in many years previous, has been that of the Inspector maintaining a high standard in each aspect of his work.

The same services have to be provided, the same laws administered as in any other local authority of comparable type. Procedures become more detailed, technological advances more complex, the general public more demanding. More thought and study need to be given to every administrative exercise and technical application.



Time has not permitted of this specialized consideration. In consequence important matters have tended to be either treated superficially, handled erratically or deferred completely in the hope that at some time in the future they might be tackled.

This is one of the problems I hope to see reorganisation of local government solve with environmental health departments having the proper breadth of function, dignity of status, recognition of purpose and depth in resources that are demanded by the work.





## SECTION 'D'

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## 1. WATER SUPPLIES

- |     |  |                           |       |
|-----|--|---------------------------|-------|
| (a) | (i)  | Satisfactory in quality.  |       |
|     | (ii)   | Satisfactory in quantity. |       |
| (b) | Private supply to seven dwellings - Satisfactory |                           |       |
| (c) | No. dwellings served:                            | (i) direct                | 2,172 |
|     |  | (ii) standpipes           | nil   |
|     | Population served:                               | (i) direct                | 5,720 |
| (d) | Fluoride content                                 | negligible                |       |

## 2. REFUSE COLLECTION

Weekly kerbside collection "Ramillies 25" vehicle driver and three men.

Bulk collection Free on request of householder. (approx. 200)  
collections

<u>Trade refuse</u>	Collection weekly or twice weekly charged at £1.00 per bin (or equivalent) per six months.
---------------------	--

Private collections By arrangement - £2.75 per hour  
Lorry hire for private loading - £1.75 per load

<u>Disposal</u>	Crude tipping. Daily levelling and covering with available material. No private disposal facilities.
-----------------	--

### 3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

# Report of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor

Modifications to the remedial system of sewage treatment are enabling a reasonable standard of effluent to be produced, although results are somewhat inconsistent, and of course, fall short of required standards.

In the meantime, sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for Totnes have been prepared and agreement is being sought from all interested bodies. In due course, these outline proposals will be submitted to the Department of the Environment, for technical approval, following which working drawings and specification will be prepared and tenders invited.





4. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Properties Other than Sewers

1. No. properties in district
2. (a) Total No. properties  
(inc. nearby premises)  
inspected following notification.
- (b) No. infested by (i) rats  
(ii) mice
3. (a) Total No. properties inspected  
for rats and/or mice for reasons  
other than notification.
- (b) No. infested by (i) rats  
(ii) mice

Type of Property	
Non Agricultural	Agricultural
2904	9
178	-
42	-
8	-
95	-
24	-
4	-

4. Treatment for Rats in Sewers

No. Manholes in systems	No. Manholes treated	No. Manholes showing takes
582	97	37

Baiting of sewers continued until takes ceased.

5. COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in the town.

6. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Class of premises	Premises newly Regd. during 1971	Total No. of Regd. premises at end of 1971	No. of premises receiving a general inspection during 1971
Offices	3	31	24
Retail Shops	5	72	69
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	9	8
Fuel storage depots	-	2	-
TOTAL	9	116	103

No. of visits of all kinds (including general inspections)  
to registered premises 192



## 7. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

### Analysis of Contraventions

Cleanliness	16	Clothing accommodation	2
Temperature	7	Eating facilities	3
Ventilation	5	Floors, passage & stairs	6
Lighting	4	Failure to Register	16
Sanitary conveniences	8	Failure to display Abstract of Act	12
Washing facilities	6	First Aid	7

## 8. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

### Housing Acts

Housing - Standard of fitness & living conditions	..	264
Repairs and improvements, Improvement Grant enquiries, work in progress.	..	367
L.A. housing management	..	234
Qualification certificates	..	11

### Public Health Acts

Complaints and nuisances - including dirty and defective premises, defective and obstructed drainage, offensive accumulations, inadequate refuse accommodation, noise abatement and insect pests.	..	..	..	77
Refuse collection and disposal	..	..	..	239
Water sampling	..	..	..	18

### Food and Drugs Act

Unsound food, food complaints and sampling	..	..	56
Meat Inspection	..	..	322
Food premises	..	..	124
Street traders and Market stalls	..	..	12

### Inspections under the:

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act	..	..	3
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	..	..	192
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	..	..	118
Petroleum Regulations	..	..	14
Civic Amenities Act	..	..	37
Factories Act	..	..	24
Pet Animals Act	..	..	1



9. INFORMAL NOTICES

Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations 1960	25
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970	126
Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963	46
Civic Amenities Act 1967	12
Public Health Act 1936	3

10. FORMAL NOTICES

Civic Amenities Act 1967	1
Public Health Act 1961	1
Housing Act 1957	2
Food and Drugs Act 1955	1

11. LICENCES AND REGISTRATIONS

Slaughtermen	16
Slaughterhouse	1
Petroleum storage	11
Pet Animals	4
Animal Boarding Establishments	1
Scrap metal dealers	2
Storage and sale of Ice Cream	36
Manufacture of sausages etc.	9





SECTION 'E'

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. <u>TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES</u>	<u>Total No.</u> <u>premises</u>	<u>No. premises</u> <u>receiving gen-</u> <u>eral inspection</u>	<u>Total No.</u> <u>inspections</u>
Grocery and general provisions ..	17	14	14
Butchers .. ..	7	6	6
Greengrocers .. ..	5	3	3
Fishmongers .. ..	1	1	1
Fried fish .. ..	2	2	4
Confectioners .. ..	9	9	9
Public Houses and guest houses ..	31	10	29
Restaurants .. ..	14	14	55
Bakehouses .. ..	2	2	5
School and industrial canteens ..	3	1	1
Food factories .. ..	5	5	10
Slaughterhouses .. ..	1	1	6

2. ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Cleanliness of articles or equipment ..	..	31
Protection of food from risk of contamination ..	..	31
Drainage systems .. ..	..	5
Sanitary conveniences .. ..	..	8
Water supply .. ..	..	1
Wash hand basins .. ..	..	12
First aid materials .. ..	..	1
Accommodation for clothing .. ..	..	2
Facilities for washing food and equipment ..	..	15
Lighting in food rooms .. ..	..	6
Ventilation in food rooms .. ..	..	6
Cleanliness and repair of food rooms ..	..	97
Accumulations of refuse .. ..	..	4

Stalls and delivery vehicles

Covering of stalls .. ..	..	3
Water supply .. ..	..	2
Wash hand basins .. ..	..	2
First aid materials .. ..	..	2
Facilities for washing food and equipment ..	..	1
Wearing overclothing .. ..	..	4
Protection of food from risk of contamination ..	..	3
Name and address not displayed .. ..	..	8





### 3. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Killed and inspected	-	-	93,633
No. whole carcasses condemned (except T.B. and Cysticercosis)	-	-	770
Weight of offal condemned (lbs.)	-	-	94,069
Weight of carcass meat condemned (lbs.)	-	-	116,857
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	17,152
% affected with disease	-	-	18.31
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>			
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	-	-	1,109
% affected with disease	-	-	1.18
<u>Cysticercosis</u>			
No. of whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-
% affected with disease	-	-	-

### 4. OTHER FOODS

During the year of 1971 the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

74 lbs. cooked meat products  
9 cwt. 90 lbs. carcass meat  
6 lbs. canned meat  
14 bottles cordial

15 lbs. other canned food  
3 cwts. 96 lbs. frozen food  
(refrigerator failure)

### 5. MILK SUPPLIES - BRUCELLA ABORTUS

No work was undertaken in this connection.

### 6. POULTRY INSPECTION

No work of this kind was undertaken.

Number of poultry processing premises within the district - Nil

### 7. DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Condemned meat is disposed of in accordance with the Meat (Sterilization) Regulations 1969 to processors of animal by-products. Tinned goods are disposed of by burial.



## SECTION 'F'

### HOUSING

#### 1. UNFIT HOUSES

##### Action taken in respect of Unfit Houses

No. of dwellings demolished ..	1
No. of dwellings closed or in respect of which undertakings were given ..	3
No. of persons displaced from unfit houses	1
No. of dwellings previously closed and made fit during the year ..	1
Other houses made fit as a result of formal or informal action. ..	9
No. properties unfit and requiring action	44 (approx.)

#### 2. HOUSING ACT 1969

##### Improvement Grants

(a) No. of properties in respect of which grants were approved ..	14
(b) Amount of grant approved ..	£10,197.00
(c) Amount of grant paid ..	£6,377.00

##### Standard Grants

(a) No. of properties in respect of which grants were approved. ..	2
(b) Amount of grant approved ..	£414.00
(c) Amount of grant paid ..	£260.00

#### 3. QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

No. applications received ..	4
Certificates issued ..	-
Certificates refused ..	2



APPENDIX 'A'

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1971, FOR THE

BOROUGH OF TOTNES IN

THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the

Factories Act 1961 Part I of the Act

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number Inspections (3)	Of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7, is enforced by the Local Authority	52	24	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	52	24	-	-





2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:- nil  
 No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted:- nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Section 133)

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
nil	nil	nil	nil

(Section 134)

No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
nil	nil	nil







